

To overcome environmental threats posed by contamination at defense bases throughout the Mid-Atlantic states that are scheduled for realignment or closure, EPA Region III works closely with the Defense Department (DOD), state environmental representatives, and various stakeholders to develop effective cleanup solutions. Often situated in locations with high redevelopment potential, these sites may be contaminated with fuels, various hazardous substances and unexploded ordnance which must be addressed before the facility can be transferred and redeveloped.

For NPL, Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) and NPL/BRAC sites, EPA is the lead regulatory agency providing oversight. We use several tools to facilitate faster, more effective and less costly cleanup and reuse of these facilities. For NPL facilities, a Federal Facilities Agreement (FFA) is negotiated and signed by the facility, EPA, and sometimes the state. The FFA establishes the procedural framework and schedules for completing environmental work. In addition to the FFA, several federal facilities have incorporated alternate partnering techniques with EPA, the state, and other stakeholders to foster a team approach to effective cleanups and transfers.

Community involvement is vital to cleanup progress. EPA in the Mid-Atlantic states fosters public participation by helping to establish restoration advisory boards (RABs) that bring community members, military officials and state and local regulators together to address cleanup issues. With these stakeholders working together, EPA believes economic recovery of communities affected by closing military bases can be expedited.



EPA works with the Defense Department and the State to develop effective cleanup solutions at federal facilities.







From investigation to removal of contaminated soil, EPA fosters public participation every step of the way.

The Dover Air Force Base was found to contain approximately 25 areas that were used for disposing industrial wastes. The result? Petroleum contamination, volatile organic compounds, heavy metals and pesticides found in on- and off-site groundwater. Working with our Air Force partners, EPA Region III has since ensured the cleanup of numerous industrial waste basins and a drum site, and provided an alternate water supply to affected residents. Now that the base has been selected as an EPA National Test Site for applying innovative cleanup technologies, numerous pilot studies are underway to ensure 1,000 base residents and 39,000 people living nearby are safe from any environmental threats.